

## Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 234584 TOSEC 270546

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAMASCUS 6396 ACTION SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMMAN IMMEDIATE BEIRUT IMMEDIATE CAIRO IMMEDIATE JIDDA  
IMMEDIATE KUWAIT IMMEDIATE 22 SEP 76

QUOTE S E C R E T DAMASCUS 6396

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE  
SUBJECT: KHADDAM COMMENTS ON LEBANON

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING KHADDAM, TAIF QUADRIPARTITE MEETING  
POSTPONED SINE DIE AFTER LAST MINUTE EGYPTIAN REQUEST  
FOR ADDITION OF SARKIS AND PALESTINIANS. SYRIA WORKING TO  
INSURE SEPT 23 INAUGURATION OF SARKIS. EGYPT CONTINUES  
HELP JUMBLATT AND LEFTISTS. FOUR THOUSAND IRAQI FIGHTERS NOW  
IN LEBANON. CHTAURA CONFERENCE DEADLOCKED WHEN ARAFAT  
UNABLE DELIVER PLO. END SUMMARY

2. IN SEPT 22 MEETING I ASKED FONMIN KHADDAM WHAT BEARING  
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HE FELT DETERIORATION OF THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY

SITUATION IN BEIRUT OVER THE PAST 24 HOURS WOULD HAVE  
ON THE PROPOSED SYRO-EGYPTIAN MEETINGS IN TAIF AS  
WELL AS ON THE INAUGURATION OF SARKIS.

3. FONMIN REPLIED THAT HE WAS PESSIMISTIC OVER LATEST  
DEVELOPMENTS. THE TAIF MEETING HAD BEEN POSTPONED SINE DIE.  
BUT, HE CLARIFIED, ITS POSTPONEMENT HAD BEEN CAUSED BY A LAST  
MINUTE CONDITION SET BY CAIRO RATHER THAN BY BEIRUT FIGHTING.  
MEETING HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR SEPT 22 AND WAS TO BE RESTRICTED  
TO EGYPT, SYRIA, SAUDIA ARABIA AND KUWAIT. LAST NIGHT DAMASCUS  
HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY NEWS THAT CAIRO HAD ASKED THAT  
PARTICIPATION BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE SARKIS AND "THE  
PALESTINIANS." HE PERSONALLY ATTRIBUTED THE RENEWED INTENSITY  
OF FIGHTING IN LEBANON TO THE DECISION BY ZJUMBLATT AND HIS  
ALLIES" TO ESCALATE THE FIGHTING AFTER THEY FIRST HEARD OF  
THE PROPOSED TAIF MEETING, IN AN EFFORT TO FRUSTRATE ANY  
SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THAT CONFERENCE.

4. SARKIS INSTALLATION: SYRIA WAS DEPLOYING ALL ITS EFFORTS  
TO INSURE THAT SARKIS' INAUGURATION OCCURS ON SCHEDULE  
TOMORROW--SEPT 23. HE NOTED THAT CHAMOUN HAD STATED  
YESTERDAY IT WOULD BE UNCONSTITUTIONAL FOR THE CEREMONY TO  
OCCUR OUTSIDE OF BEIRUT. SYRIA HQ, HOWEVER, SENT A MESSENGER  
TO CHAMOUN TO CONVINCE HIM THAT THE CEREMONY SHOULD TAKE  
PLACE IN CHTAURA AND HE, KHADDAM, WAS CONFIDENT THAT  
CHAMOUN WOULD AGREE.

5. DISCUSSING THE RECENT PROCESSION OF LEBANESE POLITICAL  
PERSONALITIES TO CAIRO, KHADDAM REITERATED THAT DAMASCUS  
HAD ACTIVELY ENCOURAGED ALL THESE VISITS. THE  
LEBANESE HAD TOLD SYRIANS THAT THEIR PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES  
WERE TO IMPROVE SYRO-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS AND TO EXPLAIN  
THE DANGERS INHERENT IN CONTINUATION OF RECENT EGYPTIAN  
POLICY IN THE LEBANON. IT HAD BEEN THE LEBANESE WHO  
ORIGINALLY PROPOSED THE QUADRIPARTITE MEETING IN TAIF.  
"UNFORTUNATELY, IT NOW APPEARS THAT EGYPT WANTS TO  
CONTINUE ITS GAME IN LEBANON." SYRIA COULD NOT UNDER-  
STAND EGYPTIAN MOTIVATIONS BEHIND ITS SUPPORT FOR  
JUMBLATT AND HIS PARTISANS. EGYPT WAS GIVING DIRECT  
ASSISTANCE THROUGH SUCH MEASURES AS PERMITTING IRAQI

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FIGHTERS TO TRANSIT CAIRO FROM BAGHDAD TO LEBANON.  
KHADDAM ESTIMATED THAT UP TO 4,000 IRAQIS ARE NOW IN  
LEBANON; 400 OF THESE HAD ARRIVED IN ONE SHIP AT  
SIDON PORT FROM EGYPT DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS.

6. CHTAURA CONFERENCE: KHADDAM SAID THAT THE SEPT 17  
SESSION AT CHTAURA BETWEEN SARKIS, ARAFAT AND JAMIL HAD  
BEEN ENCOURAGING BUT SYRIAN HOPES FOR CONTINUED PROGRESS

WERE DASHED IN THE SUBSEQUENT SEPT 19 MEETING. ON SEPT 17 ARAFAT HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS BY SARKIS BUT STATED HE MUST REFER THEM TO HIS FELLOW PALESTINIAN LEADERS. THE SARKIS SUGGESTIONS HAD INCLUDED MAKING TANGIBLE MOVEMENT TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAIRO ACCORDS WITHIN TWO WEEKS. ON SEPT 19 ARAFAT RETURNED TO SAY HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT SARKIS' SUGGESTIONS.

7. ARAFAT, ACCORDING TO KHADDAM, IN TURN ASKED FOR A CEASE-FIRE TO BE FOLLOWED BY CREATION OF A COMMISSION TO EXAMINE ALL OTHER PROBLEMS. SARKIS HAD INSISTED ON AGREEMENT ON A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION OF WHICH THE CEASE-FIRE WOULD FORM A PART. AS FAR AS SYRIA WAS CONCERNED, ARAFAT'S PROPOSAL WAS AN EFFORT TO "DILUTE THE WHOLE ISSUE" AND TO PLAY FOR TIME.

8. KHADDAM WOULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT ON WHATEVER PLANS SYRIA MAY HAVE FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS SHOULD THE PRESENT POLITICAL STALEMATE CONTINUE.

MURPHY

UNQUOTE. ROBINSON

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